

Appl. No. 10/737,235
Atty. Docket No. 9456
Amdt. dated 12/22/2005
Reply to Office Action of 8/24/2005
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Claims 1, 14 and 15 have been amended to include the limitation of former Claim 2, which has been cancelled.

Claims 1 and 3-27 remain pending in the application.

No new matter is presented by the claim amendment.

Rejection Under 35 USC §102(e) Over Provost et al. (US 2004/0157036)

Claims 1-5, 8, 12, 14 and 15 are rejected as being anticipated by Provost et al. (US 2004/0157036).

With respect to Claims 1, 14 and 15 and their respective dependent claims, Provost fails to disclose "wherein each said discrete region has a linear orientation defining a longitudinal axis in said X-Y plane." Accordingly, the 35 USC §102(e) rejection of Claims 1-5, 8, 12, 14 and 15 should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 USC §102(b) Over Tranfield (US 3,684,284).

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12, 14 and 15 are rejected as being anticipated by Tranfield (US 3,684,284).

With respect to Claims 1, 14 and 15 and their respective dependent claims, Tranfield fails to disclose "wherein each said discrete region has a linear orientation defining a longitudinal axis in said X-Y plane." Accordingly, the 35 USC §102(b) rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12, 14 and 15 should be withdrawn.

Appl. No. 10/737,235
Atty. Docket No. 9456
Arndt, dated 12/22/2005
Reply to Office Action of 8/24/2005
Customer No. 27752

Rejection Under 35 USC §102(b) Over Sorimachi (US 5,508,080).

Claims 1-3, 6-10, and 12-15 are rejected as being anticipated by Sorimachi (US 5,508,080).

With respect to Claims 1, 14 and 15 and their respective dependent claims, Sorimachi fails to disclose "wherein each said discrete region has a linear orientation defining a longitudinal axis in said X-Y plane." Accordingly, the 35 USC §102(b) rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-10, and 12-15 should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a) Over Sorimachi (US 5,508,080) in view of Kotek, et al. (US 6,120,718)

Claim 11 is rejected as being unpatentable over Sorimachi (US 5,508,080) in view of Kotek, et al. (US 6,120,718).

With respect to Claim 11, which depends from Claim 1, Sorimachi fails to disclose "wherein each said discrete region has a linear orientation defining a longitudinal axis in said X-Y plane." Kotek fails to remedy the shortcoming of Sorimachi, and therefore, because all elements are not disclosed in the cited references, the Office Action fails to make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Accordingly, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of Claim 11 should be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejections

Applicants agree to submit all necessary terminal disclaimers upon indication of allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

This response represents an earnest effort to place the application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of

Page 6 of 7

DEC-22-2005 13:10

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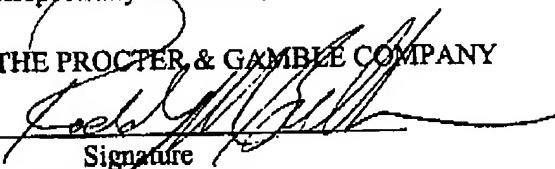
Appl. No. 10/737,235
Atty. Docket No. 9456
Amdt. dated 12/22/2005
Reply to Office Action of 8/24/2005
Customer No. 27752

the foregoing, reconsideration of this application and allowance of Claims 1-15 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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